

ONE GOAL EARNS POINTS FOR WYCOMBE

Sports Mail Special Report

AFTER indifferent finishing Wycombe Wanderers took both points with a late goal in their Isthmian League game against lowly-placed Maidstone United this afternoon.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; D. Worley, Fisher, Gale; L. Worley, Blair, James, Horsman, Hyde.
Maidstone United: Wiltshire; Craddock, Howe; Hutchins, Gaston, Morgan; Booker, Buxton, Lambeth, Barber, Lockhurst.

Referee: R. Skinner (Cheshunt).

Twice in the first five minutes Brown ran out to save in daring fashion from Buxton, and at the other end first Blair, with a neat header, and then James tested Wiltshire.

But faulty passing by the home forwards spoiled many promising midfield moves and the Maidstone defence dealt competently with early attacks which lacked punch.

LUCKLESS SWITCH

Soon after the start Maidstone switched their right back, Craddock, to outside right, and centre forward Lambeth to right back, but the reshuffled attack met with little success against the quick-tackling home defence.

Newcomer Horsman showed some slick touches for Wycombe at inside left, and centre half Gaston stopped one shot from Hyde on the goal-line after a brilliant run by Len Worley.

Then Gale went inches wide with a long-range drive.

B. Gaston saved Maidstone again with a timely header off

the goal line from an oblique shot by James, who a little later missed a good chance from a cross by Blair.

WYCOMBE PRESS

Stepping up the pace just before half-time, Wycombe were unlucky not to score on several occasions as Maidstone packed their goal to stop a series of attacks.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0, Maidstone 0.

Wiltshire was injured stopping a shot from Horsman and was carried off by stretcher. Luckhurst took his place in goal.

With only nine effective men, and usually only two forwards up field, Maidstone were forced almost entirely on the defensive and the Wycombe forwards failure to produce results brought a slow handclap from the home crowd.

GOAL DISALLOWED

Luckhurst made several good saves under hot pressure by the over-anxious home forwards.

A free kick by Gale found the net, but a goal was disallowed for off-side.

When Maidstone broke away Lewis saved Wycombe by kick-

ing off the goal line from Buxton.

Ten minutes before the end John Fisher was taken off with a knee injury.

Five minutes later Wycombe were awarded a penalty for a foul on Horsman and BECK scored from the spot.

RESULT

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1
MAIDSTONE 0

POOR SHOWING BY WYCOMBE

Wycombe W. 1 Maidstone 0

REDUCED to nine fit men in the second half gallant Maidstone United defied Wycombe Wanderers until five minutes before the end.

Then, only a penalty beat them. Throughout it was a battle against odds for Maidstone. Within 10 minutes they had to switch right-back George Craddock to the wing with a pulled muscle, centre-forward Ken Lambeth moving to right back.

Then early in the second half goalkeeper Danny Wiltshire was taken to hospital with rib injuries. Maidstone's reshuffled forward line, with only three left upfield in the second half, rarely troubled a capable home defence.

Heroes for diehard Maidstone were their lanky 18-year-old centre half Graham Gaston, who dominated the middle and twice stopped shots on the goal-line, and left-winger Terry Luckhurst, who took over in goal after Wiltshire's injury and made many a daring save to baulk Wycombe's desperate victory bid.

Wycombe's goal came after their own centre-half John Fisher had been carried off with a knee injury. Beck claimed two points by converting a penalty after a foul on Horsman.